

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 remain pending in the application. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because "the inside thereof" in line 4 has insufficient antecedent basis in the claim, and the drawings are objected to because "a groove" as recited in claim 7 is not shown therein.

In response claim 7 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and the objection to the drawings are moot.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prior Art Figs. 1-4 of Applicant's application (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art reference by further reciting an intersection provided by a first sewing part and a second sewing part and positioned away from a portion of the one end of the tether. No new matter is introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Fig. 6 of Applicant's application.

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It is an object of the present invention to provide a cushion of an air bag system which is capable of preventing breakage of sewn parts of the cushion when a collision of the vehicle occurs.

To achieve the above-noted object, the air bag system of the disclosed embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, inter alia, includes a cushion expandable to the front of a passenger by gas discharged from an inflator when a collision of a vehicle occurs to absorb shock transmitted to the passenger. The cushion of the air bag system, inter alia, includes a main panel having an inlet part provided at one side thereof to allow the gas discharged from the inflator to be introduced into the cushion therethrough, side panels attached to both open sides of the main panel by sewing, respectively, and a tether having one end fixed to the inlet part of the main panel by sewing and the other end fixed to an inner side of the main panel opposite to the inlet part of the main panel. Further, a first sewing part along which the main panel and the side panel are sewn together and a second sewing part along which the one end of the tether and the main panel are sewn together provide an intersection that is positioned away from a portion of the one end of the tether.

The reference cited to support the rejection does not disclose such a combination of features, in particular, the intersection as noted above.

In the AAPA reference, as shown in Fig 4, the intersection A between the first sewing portion 28 and the second sewing portion 30 is positioned on the tether 26 toward the inlet part 20.

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In contrast, in the disclosed embodiment, as noted above, the intersection B between the first sewing part 58 along which the main panel 62 and the side panel 56 are sewn together and the second sewing part 60 along which the one end portion of the tether 62 and the main panel 62 are sewn together is positioned away from the portion of the one end of the tether 62.

Thus, AAPA does not disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1, and thus, at least for this reason, cannot anticipate claim 1 of the disclosed embodiment.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the above-noted remarks. Claims 2-6, and 8-10 are submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim and also based upon the recitation of other features of the present invention.

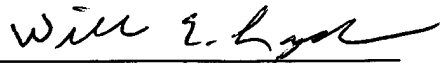
It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and of claim 7 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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